

REMARKS

The Amendment amends claims 2, 3, 6-16, and 21-59, cancels claims 1, 4, 5 and 17-20 without prejudice to a future continuation application. Claims 2, 3, 6-16, and 21-59 are pending.

The Action indicated allowable subject matter in claims 2, 6-16, 21-59, if certain of those claims were rewritten in independent form and matters of antecedent basis were overcome. Claims 2, 6, 8, 21, 23, 25, and 26 have been rewritten in independent form to claim their subject matter and the claims from which they depend. The remaining claims all depend from one of these allowable independent claims.

The claims are amended in response to the Action's 35 USC 112 rejections regarding antecedent basis. The undersigned believes that the claims are clear, and not indeterminate, and as such, the antecedent basis rejections appear improper under MPEP 706.03(d): "This form paragraph should ONLY be used in aggravated situations where lack of antecedent basis makes the scope of the claim indeterminate." (emphasis in original)

Nevertheless, the claims are amended to overcome antecedent basis problems identified in the Action, with the following exceptions:

- 1) in claim 7, "two adjacent sprockets" has proper antecedence in claim 6.

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Application No.: 10/663,231

2) in claims 35 and 36, claim 35, line 2 provides the antecedent basis for
“differential.”

3) in claims 42 and 44, claim 27, line 2 provides the antecedent basis for
“rear.”

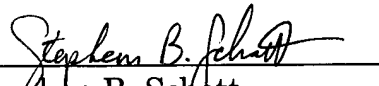
The claims have also been amended to conform them to U.S. practice.

The Action did not acknowledge receipt of the foreign priority application, or
the claim for foreign priority. Applicant’s attorney respectfully requests that the
Examiner note the claims of priority and receipt of the priority document in the
next Action.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the presently
claimed invention is patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance
of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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